



# Harbor Cleanup News

New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site ❖ Fall 2006

## Harbor PCB Dredging Resumes

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*Para Leer La Versión en Español, Vea la Página 5.*

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### Third Season of Dredging Expected to Last until Late October

In mid-August, EPA began the third season of full scale dredging of PCB-contaminated sediment in New Bedford Harbor. This latest dredging effort is focusing on an area along and just north of the former Aerovox facility. Similar to dredging conducted in 2005, approximately eight acres of sediment will be dredged this year, resulting in the removal of about 25,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment.

#### What Happens to the Dredged Material?

The dredged material is pumped directly into a floating pipeline connecting the dredge to EPA's desanding building located at Sawyer Street, New Bedford, approximately one mile south of the dredged area. Booster pumps, located along the shoreline, help pump the dredged sediment through the floating pipeline to the desanding facility.

At the desanding facility, coarse material is separated from the finer sediment. A submerged pipeline carries the finer sediment another 1.4 miles south to the dewatering facility at Hervey Tichon Ave. and Herman Melville Blvd, New Bedford. At the dewatering facility, specialized presses squeeze the excess water out of the dredged sediment. About 16,000 tons of dewatered sediment will be transported off-site by train and disposed of in a licensed PCB-landfill in Michigan. EPA anticipates that approximately 20 million gallons of water will be treated according to stringent, water-quality based standards, before being discharged back into the harbor.

#### What Progress has been Made So Far?

In addition to the two prior seasons of full-scale harbor dredging, many other areas of PCB contaminated harbor sediment have been cleaned up to date, including:

- ❖ 19 acres capped in 2005 south of the hurricane barrier;
- ❖ seven acres cleaned north of Wood Street in 2002-2003;
- ❖ two acres dredged in 2002 for a business relocation;
- ❖ five acres of the most highly contaminated sediment dredged in 1994-1995.



**Fish, lobster, quahog and other seafood from New Bedford Harbor and the Acushnet River contain high levels of PCBs, which can cause illness if eaten regularly. Restrictions on fishing and lobstering have been in place since 1979.**

## Fish Smart ... Read This Chart !



-  Don't eat any fish
-  Don't eat any lobster
-  Don't eat any shellfish
-  Don't eat any bottom fish (flounder, scup, tautog and eel)



## Site History

The New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site is an 18,000 acre urban estuary reaching from the upper Acushnet River into Buzzards Bay. Its sediment is highly contaminated with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) used along the harbor from the 1940's until banned in 1978. EPA added the harbor to its National Priorities List (known as the Superfund list) in 1983, making the site eligible for federal Superfund cleanup money.

Since 1983, EPA has spent more than \$220 million in planning, engineering and construction costs for the harbor cleanup. The remaining 240 acres of contaminated sediment, including surrounding wetlands and residential properties, will be processed at the 5-acre dewatering facility in the harbor's North Terminal. This 55,000 square-foot facility and surrounding marine bulkhead and rail spur will revert to the city when the harbor cleanup is finished. Around 880,000 cubic yards of sediment are slated to be removed, roughly equal to 175 football fields each filled 3 feet deep.

### Changing Bag Filters in Dewatering Facility



## For More Information Contact:

### U.S. EPA Project Managers:

Dave Dickerson 617-918-1329 or toll free 1-888-372-7341  
dickerson.dave@epa.gov  
Jim Brown 617-918-1308 or toll free 1-888-372-7341  
brown.jim@epa.gov

### U.S. EPA Community Involvement:

Stacy Greendlinger 617-918-1403 or toll free 1-888-372-7341  
greendlinger.stacy@epa.gov

### MA Dept. of Environmental Protection:

Joe Coyne 617-348-4066 joseph.coyne@state.ma.us

[www.epa.gov/ne/nbh](http://www.epa.gov/ne/nbh)